

application in light of the following remarks:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3
of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the
listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 14 and ending at page 16, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

An illustrative construction of instrument 200 is shown in more detail in FIG. 7a. This FIG. shows the distal portions of elements 220, 230, 240, and 250 telescoped out from one another and from the distal end of outer member 210 for greater clarity. It will be understood, however, that all of these elements are initially inside of one another and inside outer member 210. Indeed, member 210 may be initially positioned in the patient without any or all of elements 220, 230, 240, and 250 inside, and these elements may then be inserted into member 210. Moreover, the number of members like 220, 230, etc., may be more or less than the number shown in FIG. 7a, depending on the requirements of a particular procedure. It should be further understood that members like 220, 230, 240, and 250 may be collectively referred to as a longitudinal structure and that outer member 210 may be alternatively referred to as an elongated guide structure. In addition, members like 210, 220, 230 and 240 may be alternatively referred to as tubular members.